



TUESDAY EVENING, JAN. 19, 1904.

FROM WASHINGTON.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)

Washington, Jan. 19.

The army appropriation bill, as agreed upon by the House committee on military affairs, carries \$73,956,000. An important new item in the bill is an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for national guard maneuvers. The million involved was saved by cutting down the estimate for "transportation of the army and supplies," from \$15,500,000 to \$14,500,000. Among the new legislation in the bill is a provision consolidating the record and correspondence divisions and what is left of the Adjutant General's department under General Ainsworth. The sum of \$400,000 is provided for a new general army hospital in this city and \$300,000 to finish the army war college. It is the intention of Chairman Hull to report the bill to the House tomorrow.

The House committee on merchant marine and fisheries today ordered a favorable report on the bill of Representative Gardner, creating a commission to consider and recommend legislation for the development of the American merchant marine. The bill was amended so as to provide that the commission shall consist of five members of the House and five of the Senate, not more than three of each body to belong to the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President pro tem of the Senate. Mr. Gardner's bill originally provided that the commission be made up of the Secretary of the Navy, the Postmaster General, and three members of each House. The commission is to make its report to Congress on the first day of next session. An appropriation of \$20,000 is made to defray the expenses of the commission.

Many of the great distilleries of Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Illinois have representatives in Washington this week lobbying frantically to prevent the passage of the Dyer-Hoeburn bill. This bill seeks to limit the liquor traffic in the various states to the strict letter of the local laws and thus put a stop to shipments from other states in "original packages." The tobacco manufacturers, it is said, will also fight the bill for it contains a clause prohibiting the interstate traffic in cigarettes.

As the trial of the alleged Postoffice Department grafters progresses, the great difficulty of substantiating the charge of conspiracy becomes more and more apparent. So far it has barely been shown by the Government that the defendants were acquainted with one another. The intercourse between Machen and the Groffs as thus far shown by evidence was strictly as business between a government official and government contractors. Machen was closely associated with Dr. Lorenz in the Toledo Postoffice fifteen years ago, and since coming to Washington has seen Dr. and Mrs. Lorenz on several occasions. This is freely admitted by the defense. Up to today there had not been a word of testimony to show acquaintance between the Groffs and the Lorenz. At today's session Judge Kumler protested against Postoffice Inspector Mayer talking to government witnesses in the corridors before they are called to testify. "I have information that," said Mr. Kumler, "if that is the case," said the court, "it is to be rebuked. Witnesses must not be instructed before they are called to the stand. It is the duty of the court to see that the jury is not misled by the testimony of the witnesses. In the old and better days a man who would plead a technicality in defense to a criminal charge would not have been allowed to retain his seat in the Senate, but many men are now made senators who then could not have been elected town councilmen. Dietrich pleaded, and successfully, that when he accepted a bribe he had not taken his seat as a senator, though he had been elected to that office. Such a quibble is beneath the dignity of an honest man."

It is reported that a resolution will be offered in the Senate in a few days providing for the investigation of the charges against Senator Dietrich. It is reported that it will receive the support of the Senate, and it is believed by many of those who favor its introduction that the result of the whole matter will be the expulsion of the Nebraska senator. In the old and better days a man who would plead a technicality in defense to a criminal charge would not have been allowed to retain his seat in the Senate, but many men are now made senators who then could not have been elected town councilmen. Dietrich pleaded, and successfully, that when he accepted a bribe he had not taken his seat as a senator, though he had been elected to that office. Such a quibble is beneath the dignity of an honest man."

THE CONFIDENCE of the democrats that they will win in the next election is amazing to the republicans. Conservative reports from all parts of the country agree that Mr. Roosevelt is not as strong as he was a year ago, and that he is rapidly losing ground. It is expected that he will be nominated, and the democrats hope so. Senator Platt's statement that the democrats are returning to a "safe and dangerous condition" gave the President cold chills. He talked about it for days to his friends and wondered what Senator Platt meant. The President's worried condition is trying to the republican veterans who have fought many battles and they say privately that he does not stand the gaff, but he is not blind and can see the tide which has set in against him.

THE NORFOLK PILOT, which for some time past has let no opportunity go by for attacking Senator Martin, in a recent issue published an editorial decidedly laudatory of the Senator and urging him for the chairmanship of the next democratic national committee, saying that next to Senator Gorman he is the best fitted man for the position. Senator Martin's friends know that he does not want to be chairman of the committee and would decline the position were it tendered him, but they are somewhat surprised that a commendation of him should at this late day come from the Pilot. But straw shows the way the wind is blowing.

ABOUT \$20,000,000 a year, it is estimated, will be the annual bill of the United States for pension payments if the Grand Army service bill becomes a law. But what is two hundred millions of dollars to the G. A. R. and the pension agents? With them the tax payers be— This bill, as has been stated, proposes to give to each survivor of the civil war who served 90 days or more, who has an honorable discharge and who has reached the age of 62 years, a pension of \$12 a month. It also proposes to pay to every widow who was married to a soldier prior to June 27, 1890, a pension of \$12 a month.

As a mark of respect, the most prominent members of the Court Street Baptist Church, in Portsmouth, Va., yesterday acted as pallbearers for the colored section of that church, who was greatly respected by the entire congregation.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Senate observed Lee's birthday as a holiday today, but the House was in session.

D. H. Leake was yesterday elected by joint vote of both Houses to fill the unexpired term of Judge Monteiro, of the County Court of Gloucester, resigned.

Mr. Leake received all the votes cast.

Judge Keith, president of the Court of Appeals, brought to the attention of the legislature the deplorable condition of the law library. The library is lacking in shelf room to store the books, and is unsuited for the purpose. Removal to other quarters is suggested.

SENATE.

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Mr. Barksdale introduced a bill fixing the fee for examination before the Board of Medical Examiners at \$25. The fee is now \$10. It went to the committee on general laws.

Mr. Byars offered a bill repealing the State license tax on drays, hacks, &c. The idea is that the city license is sufficient.

Mr. Wickham presented a bill renewing the appropriation for the care of Confederate cemeteries. The total amount is \$1,495.

HOUSE.

The old fight over the annexation of territory by cities and towns was renewed on its old basis yesterday when Lee introduced the Gardner bill, which is opposed to the Anderson bill.

Mr. Gunn, introduced a bill whose purpose is to secure a better attendance of members, though he goes about it by increasing their pay. It provides that the chairman of the Senate and speaker of the House shall receive \$400 for a regular session and the members \$300, and for extra sessions, president and speaker \$240, and members \$150, payable weekly at \$5 a day. The members now receive \$4 a day. The bill further provides that members shall be fined \$5 a day each day they are absent "unless absent on leave granted for good reason, entered upon the journal of the House of Delegates or Senate, as the case may be."

Mr. Ould, of Campbell, introduced a resolution providing for adjournment from January 29, 1904, to January 12, 1905. The resolution was referred.

Under the provisions of a bill offered by Mr. Person, the clerks of the Senate and House are required to furnish State and county officers with copies of new laws passed, and such officers are to be held responsible for failure to observe these laws until after copies have been furnished them.

Mr. Stearns presented an amendment to the code providing that judgments entered in office are to become final in circuit or corporation courts on the last day of the next term or the fifteenth day thereof, whichever shall occur first.

Among the bills introduced were:

In relation to when judgment entered in office to become final.

To continue in office the commissioner in chancery of the present circuit courts until the first term of the circuit courts in their respective counties and cities as established by the new constitution.

To allow shipping of game from Spotylvania by residents of the county and of the city of Fredericksburg.

In relation to the collection of the fees of the commissioner of the revenue.

Fixing the fees of jailors.

The House committee on the Chesapeake and its tributaries considered the Jordan bill, which seeks to lease out the barren oyster beds of the State.

By general consent it was determined to give a public hearing at 10 a. m. next Wednesday. The Senate committee on fish and game will be asked to be present.

TO SEPARATE RACES.—Mr. Kerbin, of Worcester, introduced two "Jim Crow" bills in the Maryland House of Delegates last night, one applying to steamboat, the other to railroad travel. The measures are almost identical in their provisions. The steamboat bill requires the captains of vessels to separate the whites and negroes, as far as the construction of his boat will permit, and provide each with sitting, sleeping and eating apartments. The act is not to apply to nurses or attendants traveling with employers. A violation of the act is a misdemeanor, and punishable with a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$50. A traveler refusing to occupy the location assigned to him may be fined not less than \$5, or be confined in jail 30 days, and he may be ejected from the boat at the next place of landing.

THE POPE'S JOKE.—The latest joke of the new Pope was played on Christmas day on a Cardinal who had severely remonstrated on several occasions against the democratic ways of Pius X, and the unheard of custom recently introduced at the Vatican that two of the prelates in attendance should always dine with him. Pius X sent to the objecting Cardinal a personal invitation to dine at the Vatican on Christmas day and astonished guest his guest with the presence of his sisters and nieces and several prelates. The Cardinal in question is not likely to object again to the Pope's pleasures.

A YEAR BOOK AND GUIDE.—We have received from its publishers a copy of the New York Tribune Almanac for 1904, which is now on sale. It is not an almanac in the dictionary sense of the word, but is really a ready reference and guide book, containing everything that such a compilation ought to have. And the material has been gathered and sifted and tested with the utmost care so as to secure absolute accuracy, or at least get as near to it as honest, painstaking endeavor will bring one. Herein will be found a perfect mine of information on topics of interest, about this country, its laws, population, officials, and so forth. There isn't anything missing in the way of records which the average man will want to know about. It doesn't matter what the subject—game laws, pension legislation, sporting statistics, facts about universities, colleges, patriotic societies, population, public officials, to say nothing of a condensed guide of New York city, a map of the underground railroad system, showing the location of stations, and a table telling railroad distances, fares, etc. In fact, it is really not an exaggeration to say that of a hundred and one things a sane person wants to know, at least ninety-nine will be found in the Tribune Almanac.

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